

(a) The existence of growth of a species of grass, sorghum halepense, commonly known as Johnson grass is declared to be a public and common nuisance.

(b) The existence of thistles belonging to the asteraceae or compositae family is declared to be a public and common nuisance.]

9-401.

(A) THE EXISTENCE OF GROWTH OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF PLANTS IS DECLARED TO BE NOXIOUS.

(B) THE FOLLOWING PLANTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE NOXIOUS WEEDS IN THE STATE:

(1) THISTLES BELONGING TO THE ASTERACEAE OR COMPOSITAE FAMILY, INCLUDING CANADA, MUSK, NODDING, PLUMELESS, AND BULL THISTLE;

(2) JOHNSONGRASS (SORGHUM HALEPENSE) OR HYBRIDS THAT CONTAIN JOHNSONGRASS AS A PARENT; AND

(3) SHATTER CANE AND WILD CANE (SORGHUM BICOLOR).

9-402.

The Secretary may:

(1) Make investigations, studies, and determinations he deems advisable in order to ascertain the extent of growth and infestation of [Johnson grass, thistle, and] A NOXIOUS WEED, other weed species in the State, and the effect of the species on agricultural production;

(2) Following public hearing, designate as [nuisance] NOXIOUS weeds other species of plants which adversely affect or threaten agricultural production, and carry out practices necessary to bring about control or abatement of the species, or both;

(3) Institute programs of control and eradication; *

(4) Enter into agreements with any county and subdivision of the State, with any adjoining state, and with agencies of the federal government to effect a program of control and eradication; [and]

(5) Accept, use, or expend any aid, gift, grant, or loan made available from any private or public source to carry out the provisions of this subtitle; AND